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23217

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor

Thomas FEST et al

Patent App.

Not known (US Nat'l phase of

PCT/EP2003/009710)

Filed

Concurrently herewith

For

DEVICE FOR THE CONTINUOUS CASTING OF METALS, IN

PARTICULAR

Art Unit

Not known

Hon. Commissioner of Patents

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend as follows:

In the translation serving as Specification:

Page 1, before Paragraph 1 insert

Atty's 23217

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is the US national phase of PCT application PCT/EP2003/009710 filed 2

September 2003 with a claim to the priority of German patent application 10244596.6 itself filed 21 September 2002.